

**Present:** Dwight Baker; Ray Day, Jr.; Dave Elliott; Holly Plackett, Vice-Chair; Anirudh Sahni; Carla Saulter; Tina Shereen, Chair

**Provisional Members:** Joan Michaels

**Staff:** Barbara de Michele, Community Relations Planner; Mike Beck, Ferry District project manager; Rob Fellows, Strategic Plan project manager; Gayle Torgerson, Marketing and Service Information Project Manager

Shereen opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

### **Ferry District**

Beck gave a brief report on King County's new Marine Division, which was officially authorized and funded by the Ferry District Board of Directors (King County Council) in November. This results culminates a two-year process in which Metro conducted a feasibility study, received authorization from the state, and formed a ferry district. The first King County Marine Division service will begin in 2009. In response to a question from Sells, Beck said that the TAC will no longer be involved with ferry district issues. It will be up to the new Marine Division to decide whether or not they want an advisory committee.

### **Strategic Plan**

Fellows briefly reviewed documents that were sent to the King County Council for review. In 2008, the TAC will be extensively involved in the Strategic Plan update process.

### **Trip Planner Website**

Torgerson gave an overview and history of the Metro website and Trip Planner. In the late 1990's Metro partnered with Trapeze Software to develop the data for the Trip Planner. Metro has been using the same software with numerous modifications ever since. Many of the design decisions are driven by the software limitations. There are many things that Metro would like to improve about the website, especially the mapping ability and the "real time" information capability. However, the funding for such an upgrade has not been authorized in any budget to date.

Torgerson said that some additional considerations include: 1) the large number of regional partners that exchange information and data; 2) the internal interface with other websites inside King County; the large amount of traffic currently hitting on the Metro website. Last year, the site averaged 15,000 hits per day (up to 25,000 during the I-5 closure). Metro produces some 31,000 itineraries per day. The system itself has been growing by 25% each year for the past two years.



**Letter of Commendation**

The TAC unanimously accepted the draft letter of commendation written by Ray Day. (see attached).

**Committee Business**

Anirudh Sahni was elected vice-chair. He will serve as chair in April, May and June.

Day reported on the Board and Commission Appreciation event and showed everyone the new King County logo pin embossed with the words "civic leader." Attendees each received the pin.

Sahni announced that Transportation Choices is holding their annual Lobby Day in Olympia on January 29, and encouraged everyone to attend.

Shereen adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.



**King County**

**Department of Transportation**

Metro Transit Division  
Community Relations and Communications  
KSC-TR-0824  
201 South Jackson Street  
Seattle, WA 98104-3856

December 12, 2007

Mr. Kevin Desmond, General Manager  
King County DOT Metro Division  
201 South Jackson  
KSC-TR-0415  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. Desmond,

We, the members of the Transit Advisory Committee, are writing to express our appreciation of your service and your staff's service to fulfilling your pledge of "We'll get You There", during the year 2007.

Specifically, we would like to recognize the smooth transition that took place during the successful rerouting of I-5 buses in Seattle. Prior to the commencement of the Washington State Department of Transportation's reconstruction work along Interstate 5 in downtown Seattle, a massive public information campaign was launched to notify Metro riders of alternative routes and schedules during this time of inconvenience. After just a few days of adjustments, everything was so successful that inconveniences were hardly noticed nor reported to the media. Bravo!

The smooth reopening of the bus tunnel has been another success for the public, thanks to your team of planners. This, coupled with the decision to maintain 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue as a rapid bus route, was very smart and popular. We appreciated Metro Service Planning Supervisor David Hull's valuable updates on the tunnel and other service areas throughout this past year. Your staffers have made our work more interesting, rewarding and challenging. Their responsiveness to TAC requests for information has been superb!

Also deserving special mention are: Sharron Shinbo, Metro Marketing and Development Project Manager for bus wrap information; Sharon Slebodnik, Metro Supervisor of Transit Route



Facilities for bus shelters improvements and safety; Victor Obeso, Metro Service Development Manager for Transit Now updates; Mike Beck, Service Development Contract Manager, on ferry district updates, and Ellen Bevington, Supervisor for Speed & Reliability for intersection improvements.

And it goes without saying that we always enjoy your attendance at our meetings. We met with you in January and April 2007, and have missed you since. Hopefully, we can do it more often in 2008.

TAC continues to be impressed with Metro's constant drive to improve service, passenger and operator safety, and revenue. We look forward to advising and working with your team and you, in the new year to come, on such issues as bus shelters, Smart Cards, securing dollars for marketing projects, and Transit Now operations. Congratulations on these successful projects and those to come.

Sincerely,

Tina Shereen, Chairperson  
King County Transit Advisory Committee

Cc     King County Executive Ron Sims  
         King County Council  
         Harold Taniguchi, Director, KCDOT  
         Laurie Brown, Deputy Director, KCDOT  
         Betty Gullledge-Bennett, Manager, King County DOT Communications and Community Relations  
         Victor Obeso, Manager, Metro Service Development  
         David Hull, Supervisor, Metro Service Planning  
         Sharron Shinbo, Program Manager, Metro Marketing and Service Information  
         Sharon Slebodnick, Supervisor, Metro Transit Route Facilities  
         Mike Beck, Contract Manager, Metro Service Development  
         Ellen Bevington, Supervisor, Metro Speed and Reliability